



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation May 2012

Unemployment Rate Increases; More South Carolinians Enter the Labor Force

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 9.1 percent in May from 8.8 percent in April. This marks South Carolina's first rate increase in 10 months as more people entered the labor force.

The number of unemployed people increased this month by 5,861 to 195,905. At the same time, the number of employed people decreased by 3,886 to 1,957,360.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased slightly from 8.1 percent in April to 8.2 percent in May, with about 642,000 people entering the labor force in May.

The not seasonally adjusted non-farm payroll survey showed an increase of 16,800 jobs from April to May 2012, with gains in most major sectors. Over 75 percent of the increase was driven by gains in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+4,700); Professional and Business Services (+4,700); and Leisure and Hospitality (+3,700). Construction (+1,400) noted an improvement for the third consecutive month as Specialty Trade Contractors experienced increased demand. Also acknowledging increases were Education and Health Services (+1,100) as well as Financial Activities (+1,000). Minor increases of 100 each were noted in Information and Government. Manufacturing posted the only loss among major sectors this month, declining by 200 jobs.

Since May 2011, total non-farm employment rose by 21,400 jobs. Manufacturing (+7,000) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+7,100) registered the greatest gains over the year. The sub-sectors of Employment Services (+5,900) as well as Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,300) also reported notable gains for the year.

Online job ads in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series, showed a small increase of about 600 ads from April to May. The number of jobseekers per opening rose slightly from 3.6 to 3.7 this past month. Online ads across the United States saw a decrease (-45,700) in the last month. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were about 2,100 higher in May 2012.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) had the most ads (13,037), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) coming in next (11,536). Of all online ads, Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations had the highest number of ads in the state (9,932).

“Despite our unemployment rate edging up this month, more than 24,000 of our fellow citizens have found jobs in the past year,” said Abraham J. Turner, executive director of the SC Department of Employment and Workforce. “Historically, South Carolina’s unemployment rate fluctuations have mirrored the movements of the national rate, and this month is no exception. We are encouraged that people are entering the labor force searching for employment, and DEW continues to remain focused on putting South Carolinians back to work.”

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

May 2012

Jobs by Industry	May 2012	April 2012	May 2011	April 2012 to May 2012		May 2011 to May 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,872,500	1,855,700	1,851,100	16,800	0.91%	21,400	1.16%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,800	4,000	0	0.00%	-200	-5.00%
Construction	76,000	74,600	77,700	1,400	1.88%	-1,700	-2.19%
Manufacturing	221,800	222,000	214,800	-200	-0.09%	7,000	3.26%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	357,600	352,900	350,500	4,700	1.33%	7,100	2.03%
Information	26,200	26,100	25,600	100	0.38%	600	2.34%
Financial Activities	95,900	94,900	96,700	1,000	1.05%	-800	-0.83%
Professional and Business Services	235,900	231,200	230,300	4,700	2.03%	5,600	2.43%
Education and Health Services	221,000	219,900	217,500	1,100	0.50%	3,500	1.61%
Leisure and Hospitality	217,900	214,200	220,400	3,700	1.73%	-2,500	-1.13%
Government	346,400	346,300	344,600	100	0.03%	1,800	0.52%

Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

May 2012

INDUSTRY TITLE	May 2012	April 2012	May 2011	April 2012 to May 2012		May 2011 to May 2012	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	1,872,500	1,855,700	1,851,100	16,800	0.91%	21,400	1.16%
Anderson MSA	58,300	58,100	60,800	200	0.34%	-2,500	-4.11%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	299,900	299,600	297,800	300	0.10%	2,100	0.71%
Columbia MSA	354,900	351,800	347,400	3,100	0.88%	7,500	2.16%
Florence MSA	85,700	85,100	81,000	600	0.71%	4,700	5.80%
Greenville MSA	306,000	304,000	304,800	2,000	0.66%	1,200	0.39%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	119,500	115,500	118,300	4,000	3.46%	1,200	1.01%
Spartanburg MSA	120,100	120,000	116,200	100	0.08%	3,900	3.36%
Sumter MSA	37,200	36,800	37,100	400	1.09%	100	0.27%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		May 2012				April 2012				May 2011			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↑	12,180	10,099	2,081	17.1	11,857	9,868	1,989	16.8	12,249	9,933	2,316	18.9
Allendale County	↑	3,379	2,835	544	16.1	3,251	2,751	500	15.4	3,337	2,739	598	17.9
Marlboro County	↓	11,608	9,744	1,864	16.1	11,543	9,603	1,940	16.8	11,698	9,676	2,022	17.3
Barnwell County	↑	8,500	7,280	1,220	14.4	8,338	7,202	1,136	13.6	8,605	7,315	1,290	15.0
Union County	↑	11,512	9,871	1,641	14.3	11,303	9,785	1,518	13.4	11,543	9,751	1,792	15.5
Bamberg County	↑	6,270	5,393	877	14.0	6,095	5,287	808	13.3	6,299	5,401	898	14.3
Clarendon County	↑	12,691	10,918	1,773	14.0	12,307	10,671	1,636	13.3	12,568	10,688	1,880	15.0
Dillon County	↑	13,461	11,608	1,853	13.8	13,104	11,348	1,756	13.4	13,278	11,282	1,996	15.0
Chester County	↑	14,564	12,583	1,981	13.6	14,352	12,478	1,874	13.1	14,896	12,542	2,354	15.8
McCormick County	↑	3,380	2,936	444	13.1	3,301	2,899	402	12.2	3,441	2,944	497	14.4
Orangeburg County	↑	41,378	36,156	5,222	12.6	40,429	35,586	4,843	12.0	41,799	36,267	5,532	13.2
Hampton County	↑	7,890	6,912	978	12.4	7,635	6,762	873	11.4	7,863	6,781	1,082	13.8
Fairfield County	↑	10,902	9,569	1,333	12.2	10,813	9,520	1,293	12.0	10,717	9,416	1,301	12.1
Lee County	↑	8,351	7,350	1,001	12.0	8,099	7,164	935	11.5	8,183	7,129	1,054	12.9
Chesterfield County	↑	19,036	16,767	2,269	11.9	18,681	16,509	2,172	11.6	19,024	16,475	2,549	13.4
Lancaster County	↑	30,874	27,188	3,686	11.9	30,482	26,991	3,491	11.5	31,151	26,867	4,284	13.8
Williamsburg County	↑	16,447	14,496	1,951	11.9	16,010	14,185	1,825	11.4	16,147	14,135	2,012	12.5
Cherokee County	↑	24,931	22,009	2,922	11.7	24,608	21,877	2,731	11.1	25,210	21,905	3,305	13.1
Colleton County	↑	17,396	15,398	1,998	11.5	16,986	15,152	1,834	10.8	17,179	14,943	2,236	13.0
Sumter County	↑	45,004	40,210	4,794	10.7	44,043	39,728	4,315	9.8	45,143	39,978	5,165	11.4
Abbeville County	↑	10,848	9,701	1,147	10.6	10,585	9,591	994	9.4	11,102	9,854	1,248	11.2
Greenwood County	↑	31,113	27,866	3,247	10.4	30,533	27,609	2,924	9.6	31,342	27,865	3,477	11.1
Darlington County	↑	31,428	28,176	3,252	10.3	30,717	27,922	2,795	9.1	30,416	26,701	3,715	12.2
Calhoun County	↑	6,775	6,082	693	10.2	6,698	6,050	648	9.7	6,742	5,984	758	11.2
Florence County	↑	64,519	58,160	6,359	9.9	63,632	57,636	5,996	9.4	61,992	55,115	6,877	11.1
Horry County	↑	132,167	119,031	13,136	9.9	127,398	115,283	12,115	9.5	132,446	118,236	14,210	10.7
York County	↓	110,398	99,630	10,768	9.8	111,687	99,675	12,012	10.8	114,666	99,542	15,124	13.2
Georgetown County	↑	30,372	27,485	2,887	9.5	29,607	26,942	2,665	9.0	30,196	27,016	3,180	10.5
Laurens County	↑	30,725	27,816	2,909	9.5	30,327	27,775	2,552	8.4	31,026	27,847	3,179	10.2
Spartanburg County	↑	133,960	121,278	12,682	9.5	132,985	121,674	11,311	8.5	132,236	118,500	13,736	10.4
Oconee County	↑	31,466	28,532	2,934	9.3	30,769	28,234	2,535	8.2	31,573	28,396	3,177	10.1
Anderson County	↑	82,525	74,917	7,608	9.2	81,508	74,831	6,677	8.2	85,594	77,296	8,298	9.7
Newberry County	↑	18,507	16,850	1,657	9.0	18,043	16,580	1,463	8.1	18,575	16,765	1,810	9.7
Richland County	↑	183,940	167,478	16,462	8.9	180,601	166,608	13,993	7.7	181,715	164,792	16,923	9.3
Edgefield County	↑	10,931	9,982	949	8.7	11,036	10,085	951	8.6	11,275	10,295	980	8.7
Berkeley County	↑	84,728	77,509	7,219	8.5	83,988	77,755	6,233	7.4	85,023	77,430	7,593	8.9
Jasper County	↑	10,579	9,683	896	8.5	10,414	9,591	823	7.9	10,417	9,391	1,026	9.8
Pickens County	↑	58,194	53,275	4,919	8.5	57,437	53,197	4,240	7.4	58,381	53,335	5,046	8.6
Saluda County	↑	9,150	8,383	767	8.4	9,005	8,339	666	7.4	9,059	8,248	811	9.0
Kershaw County	↑	29,731	27,251	2,480	8.3	29,325	27,109	2,216	7.6	29,457	26,814	2,643	9.0
Beaufort County	↑	65,521	60,136	5,385	8.2	64,034	59,567	4,467	7.0	63,886	58,327	5,559	8.7
Aiken County	↑	73,695	67,888	5,807	7.9	74,420	68,588	5,832	7.8	76,247	70,020	6,227	8.2
Charleston County	↑	177,237	163,483	13,754	7.8	176,205	164,003	12,202	6.9	178,012	163,318	14,694	8.3
Dorchester County	↑	68,682	63,375	5,307	7.7	68,203	63,576	4,627	6.8	68,816	63,311	5,505	8.0
Greenville County	↑	225,496	208,314	17,182	7.6	222,931	208,009	14,922	6.7	227,246	208,550	18,696	8.2
Lexington County	↑	134,486	124,631	9,855	7.3	132,706	123,984	8,722	6.6	133,147	122,633	10,514	7.9
Charleston MSA	↑	330,648	304,367	26,281	7.9	328,397	305,335	23,062	7.0	331,851	304,059	27,792	8.4
Columbia MSA	↑	374,984	343,394	31,590	8.4	369,148	341,610	27,538	7.5	370,837	337,887	32,950	8.9
Florence MSA	↑	95,947	86,336	9,611	10.0	94,349	85,558	8,791	9.3	92,408	81,816	10,592	11.5
Greenville MSA	↑	314,415	289,405	25,010	8.0	310,696	288,981	21,715	7.0	316,653	289,732	26,921	8.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,153,265	1,957,360	195,905	9.1	2,151,290	1,961,246	190,044	8.8	2,157,526	1,932,614	224,912	10.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
- Unemployment Rate =